

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2022

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

Veterans in Arizona are unable to access the care they need because of staff shortages at Veterans Administration (VA) facilities. Our nation has promised veterans care, and your department is failing to deliver that care.

Throughout the greater Phoenix area there are approximately 19 vacancies for VA primary care providers and 58 vacancies for mental health care providers. This vacancy rate is deeply troubling. These positions should be filled immediately so that veterans in Arizona are able to access the care they need. And until the positions are filled, veterans should be allowed to access care from community care providers.


Please provide answers to the following questions by June 24, 2022.

1. What steps is the department taking to fill these positions as quickly as possible?
2. Are veterans who are unable to access care at VA facilities able to receive care from community care providers?
3. What steps is the department taking to inform veterans of their ability to visit community care providers?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress


David Schweikert
Member of Congress